"Fling Out Our Banner, Let It Float!"

THE TEMPLAR

conceived and written for the purpose of advancing the interests of
KNIGHTS TEMPLAR in MASSACHUSETTS and RHODE ISLAND

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George Washington's Burial

Q. --- Please give a description of the burial of George Washington.
A. --- Four white-robed clergymen led the procession to the grave, followed by an escort of officers and Masons; then the coffin with eight pallbearers, officers of the Revolution; then prominent Masons; foot and horse guards from Alexandria, Va. brought up the rear. There was a brief ceremony at the tomb where the Rev. Mr. Davies performed the Masonic rite. George Washington, initiated in Fredericksburg, Lodge No. 4, Fredericksburg, Va., November 4, 1752; passed March 3, 1753; raised August 4, 1753.

If Lincoln Were Alive Today

In times of crisis every nation searches the words of its heroes and sages for guidance. Now, on the anniversary of Abraham Lincoln's birthday, we turn to what he did say in the '60s for council in the '40s. "We here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain; that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom and that government of the people, by the people, for the people shall not perish from the earth." (From his Gettysburg Address, Nov. 19, 1863)

Influence -- As we this month recall the greatness of Washington and Lincoln, let us not forget that true Knighthood too leaves its impress upon mankind. While Templary is not a religion since religion is the relationship between the individual and his God, yet the noble purpose of Templary is by influence to make men honest and upright, true to their God, faithful to their country and to unite them in bonds of charity, morality and fraternity.

The R.E. Grand Commander George A. Weeks paid his respects to the first Grand Master of the Ancient Templars-Hugh de Payens-when he attended #20 in Melrose, Mass. Christmas Day to participate in the Christmas observance. The usual entertainment preceded the Toasts at 12:00 Noon held in the Asylum, where the R.E. Grand Commander responded in person to the Toast given to him. 350 Sir Knights and friends were present. The charity collection was $475.00 - both figures being the largest in many years. The charity distribution throughout the city was very extensive, one case in particular where an afflicted Sir Knight belonging to a Commandery in northern N.Y. state, but living in a nearby town, received a much needed sum of money for medical purposes, together with a complete Christmas dinner for his family from the hands of Capt. Gen. Leslie M. Collins who was the emissary of Good Will. We wonder how many other similar cases exist in our jurisdiction which we never hear about and which are deserving of special treatment.

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Sir Knight Roger Keith, who was Eminent Commander of Bay State #38, Brockton, Mass. in 1924, has been installed Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Massachusetts.

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Sutton #16, New Bedford, Mass., E. Sir Charles R. Dugdale, Commander, is planning a pilgrimage in June to Edgartown, Martha's Vineyard Island, for the purpose of knighting a large class of Candidates.

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Hugh de Payens #20, Melrose, Mass., E. Sir Frank C. Greeley, Commander, is planning a

pilgrimage on June 13 to attend the Anniversary Breakfast of Hugh de Payens #19, Easton, Pa. Next year a return visit from the Easton fraters will commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the presentation to them of a large punch bowl from the Melrose fraters.

Membership Activities

With this issue (#5) 50% of our fiscal year is behind us. Our objective for this first half of the year is 44% of the year's total; our actual figure in attainment of petitions is 41% of our year's objective, and 94% of our accumulative objective so far. Up to this time there are 5 Commanderies that have had no petitions presented, 46 that have. It is our hope that every Commandery in Mass. and R.I. will come through with petitions and create more Sir Knights during this Templar Year. WE CAN reach our goal - but only if you and I will each do his part.

The success or failure of a Commandery of often determined by the kind of Eminent Commander that Commandery has. Where you lead, others will follow.

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Someone has said that the world is full of willing people -- some willing to work, the rest willing to let them. I am encouraged to believe that you are the kind of men who are willing to work and I can assure you that the more you do work, the better commandery you will have.

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One-half of your term of office is past. Ahead of you are 5 more months. What you do in those months will largely determine what history will say of you as an Eminent Commander.

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Life is a one-way street. No matter how many detours you take, none of them leads back. When we recognize this fact, we understand that, within the time allotted to us, we must do the best we can with what we have or we will never be able to do it. Your term of office and my term of office is 12 months. Whatever we have planned must be done in that time, or, as far as we are concerned, it will never be done.

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Templary is like a wheelbarrow -- it stands still unless someone pushes it-- you as Eminent Commander must be the pusher. As the highest officer in your Commandery, the responsibility is yours to take the lead in pushing to higher accomplishments.

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He that does good to another, does also good to himself, not only in the consequence, but in the very act of doing it; for the conscience of well-doing is an ample reward.

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Let's put a lot of enthusiasm into our membership activities - enthusiasm is the emblem of energy - it must, however, be created - it has no momentum of itself to continue by its own inertia - if it stops it must be recreated. Always we must keep in mind that when the average companion joins our Commandery that Sir Knight is all enthusiasm. The real test, however, is his capacity to retain that enthusiasm. Keep him interested and he will have plenty of enthusiasm. By doing that you will not only add strength to your own Commandery but also add support to Templary as a whole. A man can lose everything else but enthusiasm and come back! Keep your enthusiasm alive!

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All the strength and force of a man comes from his faith in things unseen. He who believes is strong; he who doubts is weak. Strong convictions precede great actions. The man strongly possessed of an idea is the master of all who are uncertain or wavering. Have you an idea for getting candidates? Yes, we have an idea. " A MOTIVATION FOR SUGGESTIBILITY." Try it on your chapter friend.

"An idea is something that won't work unless you do."

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We had another idea when the Membership Committee compiled lists of about 1000 names of our former members who demitted or were suspended during the past 5 years and placed them in the hands of all our Commanders for contact with a view of reinstating them. We have received reports from a few Commanders on the results of their contacts and hope to hear from all the Commanders soon. A further report on this subject will be given in the next issue. Watch for it!

Your Grand Commander believes that the Templars of Mass. and R.I. are as fine a group of men as ever belonged to this Christian Order in our two states, and he is confident that the work to be done in the remaining months of the year will result in even greater net gains than that achieved in the banner year 2 years ago.

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So many people itch for what they want but won't scratch for it. You and I must not only itch for what we want - we must scratch for it.

Success

He has achieved success who has lived well and laughed often; who has gained the respect of intelligent men; who has filled his niche and accomplished his task; who has left the world better than he found it; whether by an improved poppy or a perfect poem; who has never lacked appreciation of earth's beauty or failed to express it; who has looked for the best in others and given the best he had; whose life was an inspiration; whose memory is a benediction.

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The man who wants to do something finds a way - the other finds an excuse.

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To ancient man all things were animate. When a boulder fell on his toe, the boulder meant to do so! Even to this day when we stumble over a chair, we may kick the chair in disgust. It was the chair's fault, not ours, that we stumbled!

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What a great old American custom back-passing is! The man under our hat is always innocent. Our mistakes and failures can always be so conveniently placed on the shoulders of someone else, and then we can go our way in peace.

Where Are The New Members?

There are approximately 2,250,000 Free-Masons in the United States who are NOT Knights Templar .. What a tremendous field for growth and expansion and spiritual prosperity for the Order of Knights Templar.

With a total of 2,500,000 Masons in this country to draw upon for new members of our Order, surely our present membership of only 10% of this large and constantly growing Masonic membership gives plenty of food for thought and should create increased energy for action. There must be more than 10% of these Brothers who can be interested in Templary, and offered the privilege and honor of being called "Sir Knight."

Net Gains - last year

	Grand Lodge	Grand Chapter	Grand Commandery
Mass.	+ 4998	+709	+195
R.I.	+ 652	-120	- 39
TOTALS	+ 5650	+589	+156

It is the duty of every Sir Knight, proud of his distinction of being a Knight Templar, to share his good fortune with others. Perhaps these potential new members are some of your closest friends in your Lodge and Chapter. They have the qualifications for membership, and may just be waiting for more information or a little encouragement. Many Masons have been discouraged by the wrong information about our Order. Some have been told "NE PLUS ULTRA" but those of us who have gone beyond know that there "IS MORE BEYOND." It is your duty to erase these wrong impressions by presenting facts and the beauty and inspiration of the Order of Christian Knighthood.

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A BIG SHOT is just A LITTLE SHOT who kept on shooting. Keep on shooting, keep on asking worthy Companions to share the joys of Templary.

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Grand Encampment Decisions

"The Commander may delegate officers and members to confer orders under his supervision."

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"The Commander may delegate his authority to confer the orders to any competent Sir Knight."

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"The status of a member as to the payment of dues should be determined as of the date the request for demit was received by the Recorder."

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"Dues do not accrue against a suspended Templar during the period of his suspension."

	Five Months
St. Johns	8
Boston	31
Newburyport	9
Washington	0
Worcester County	15
Springfield	6
DeMolay	19
Holy Sepulchre	1
Pilgrim	3
Palestine	13
Milford	7
St. Bernard	1
Calvary	1
Haverhill	8
Old Colony	4
Sutton	24
Bethany	11
Winslow Lewis	1
Jerusalem	1
Hugh de Payens	14
St. Omer	2
Berkshire	10
Connecticut Valley	0
Woonsocket	1
Godfrey de Bouillon	2
Joseph Warren	16
Narragansett	3
Bristol	6
Northampton	7
South Shore	0
Trinity	1
Natick	0
Coeur de Lion	4
Gethsemane	18
Olivet	6
Athol	8
Bay State	4
Cyprus	1
St. Paul	2
Beaseant	2
Cambridge	8
Bethlehem	0
Orange	3
Ivanhoe	4
Quincy	4
Temple	8
St. Andrew	9
Reading	3
T.S. Webb	13
Sir Galahad	3
Winth rop	3
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MEMBERSHIP RESULTS

5 Mos.	Objective	Actual	1947	1946
Sept.	57	48	38	64
Oct.	74	81	56	87
Nov.	71	73	58	55
Dec.	72	62	71	62
Jan.	74	64	69	64
Total	348	328	292	332

PETITIONS Per 100 Members

St. Andrew #49	8.7
T.S.Webb #51	8.4
Bethany #17	7.7
Sutton #16	7.4
Palestine #10	7.2
Gethsemane #35	6.9
Joseph Warren #28	6.8
Athol #37	6.8
Temple #48	6.2
Northampton #30	5.9
Berkshire #22	5.5
Milford #11	4.9
Orange #45	4.7
Cambridge #42	4.2
Newburyport #3	4.3
Hugh de Payens	4.2
DeMolay #7	3.9
Boston #2	3.7
Entire Mass.	2.9
Entire R. I.	1.1

PETITIONS

Boston #2	31
Sutton #16	24
DeMolay #7	19
Gethsemane #35	18
Joseph Warren #28	16
Worcester County	15
Hugh de Paens #20	14
Palestine #10	13
T.S.Webb #51	13
Bethany #17	11
Berkshire #22	10

Boston #2-Sutton #16-Berkshire #22-Gethsemane #35-St. Andrew #49- Have had petitions on each and every notice this year.

Five Commanderies have not had any petitions on any notice so far this year.

Courteously yours

Frank H. Wilson, P.G.C.
Chairman